



Indiana Department of Education
SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS

ISTEP+

WHAT IS ISTEP+?

The **I**ndiana **S**tatewide **T**esting for **E**ducational **P**rogress-Plus (ISTEP+) measures what students know and are able to do at each grade level. Based on Indiana's Academic Standards, ISTEP+ provides a learning check-up to make sure students are on track and signal whether they need extra help.

HOW DO I GET READY FOR THE TEST?

Be prepared. Cramming for any test is never the best way to prepare. Keep up with your homework and ask your teachers for help when you need it.

Review. In the weeks before your test, take it seriously when your teachers review important information.

Get plenty of sleep.

Have a good breakfast. Eat protein (eggs, meat, cheese, etc.), which will help you perform better than a sugary doughnut. Too much food can make you feel sleepy, so don't overdo it.

Take a break. Get some exercise during your breaks or after school to keep your energy up.

Ask for help. If you've had trouble with ISTEP+ in the past, ask a teacher, counselor or parent about extra help now.

Double-check your work on the test. You'll catch mistakes if you take time to proofread your answers carefully.

WHAT IF I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

Visit www.doe.in.gov/istep, call 1-888-54-ISTEP or contact your local school.



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WHAT'S NEW ABOUT ISTEP+ THIS YEAR?

The **I**ndiana **S**tatewide **T**esting for **E**ducational **P**rogress-Plus (ISTEP+) is changing from the fall to the spring this year. This year only (2008-09), students in grades 3-8 will take ISTEP+ twice as part of the move to spring testing. Beginning in 2009-10, students will only take ISTEP+ in the spring.

WHAT'S TESTED ON ISTEP+?

Fall 2008 ISTEP+ (September 15-26)

The fall 2008 ISTEP+ includes multiple choice, essay and short answer questions covering English/language arts and mathematics at grades 3-8 as well as science at grades 5 and 7. Incoming high school sophomores (class of 2011) will be the last group of students to take the current **G**raduation **Q**ualifying **E**xam (GQE), required to earn a high school diploma. The GQE covers English and math skills through grade 9.

Spring 2009 ISTEP+ (March, Late-April/Early May)

Like the fall test, the spring ISTEP+ includes questions on English and math at grades 3-8, science at grades 4 and 6 and social studies at grades 5 and 7. Incoming freshmen this fall (class of 2012) will be the first group of students to take the new GQE which consists of Algebra I and English 10 exams taken whenever students complete the corresponding course. For most students, that will be in late spring.

WHY IS ISTEP+ CHANGING?

The changes are part of a larger testing plan for Indiana that includes moving ISTEP+ to the spring (grades 3-8), replacing the current GQE with Algebra I and English 10 end-of-course exams and offering new computer-based teaching tools to local schools on a voluntary basis for grades K-8.

WHAT IF I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS?

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www.doe.in.gov



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PARENTS

WHAT DOES MY STUDENT NEED TO KNOW?

Indiana's K-12 Academic Standards are widely recognized as among the best in the nation for clearly outlining what students should know and be able to do at each grade and subject.



www.doe.in.gov/standards

HOW'S MY LOCAL SCHOOL DOING?

The Indiana Department of Education provides a Web page for every Indiana school that includes contact information, performance data, teacher information, test results, high school graduation rates and more.



www.doe.in.gov/schooldata

HOW CAN I HELP?

Is your child struggling in school? Step in as soon as you think there's a problem - before he or she falls too far behind. Start by talking to your child's teachers about getting extra help. If you need more assistance, Indiana has resources available.



www.learnmoreindiana.org/parenthelp

www.doe.in.gov



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SCHOOLS

HOW DO I CONTACT MY LOCAL SCHOOL?

Updated throughout the school year, the Indiana School Directory is an online resource providing current contact information for local school corporations, public schools and accredited nonpublic schools.



www.doe.in.gov/schooldirectory

HOW DO I FIND CURRENT SCHOOL DATA?

The Indiana Department of Education provides a Web page for every Indiana school that includes student demographics, performance data, teacher information, test results, high school graduation rates and more.



www.doe.in.gov/schooldata

HOW CAN I GET EDUCATION NEWS?

The Indiana Department of Education offers free access to the latest news in K-12 education in a variety of formats, including e-newsletters, news releases, podcasts, videos and more.



www.doe.in.gov/news

www.doe.in.gov



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STUDENTS

WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?

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www.doe.in.gov/standards

WHAT IF I NEED EXTRA HELP?

If you don't understand something in school or feel like you're falling behind, ask your teacher or parents for help now. Indiana also has online resources to help get you back on track.



www.learnmoreindiana.org/studenthelp

HOW DO I PREPARE FOR THE FUTURE?

Everyone needs some sort of education beyond high school. The only question is: which kind? Make sure you know your options and start taking the steps needed to make it happen.



www.learnmoreindiana.org/knowyouroptions

www.doe.in.gov



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TEACHERS

WHAT TEACHING RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE?

The Indiana Department of Education offers a variety of learning resources designed to help teachers meet Indiana's highly regarded K-12 Academic Standards. These resources include the new Core Standards – a companion to the Indiana Academic Standards – that help teachers prioritize instruction and connect the “big ideas” students need to know in order to advance.



www.doe.in.gov/standards

HOW DO I FIND OUT ABOUT MY TEACHER LICENSE?

The Indiana Department of Education provides a variety of licensing resources for current and future K-12 teachers, including: requirements, renewal options, details on Indiana's transition-to-teaching, mentoring programs, professional development opportunities and more.



www.doe.in.gov/educatorlicensing

HOW DO WE HONOR TEACHERS?

Indiana recognizes outstanding classroom teachers through the state's Teacher of the Year program. All school corporations are encouraged to help recognize leadership and excellence in education by nominating one local teacher for this honor.



www.doe.in.gov/TOY

www.doe.in.gov